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ATTACHMENT A



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POST-REVOLUTIONARY TRIALS IN HUNGARY

From the time it was installed in power by the Soviets last November 4, the Kadar regime has employed progressively harsher methods of persecution to assert control over the hostile population. Once the wide-spread rebellion was crushed by Soviet armed might, the most effective resistance came from the workers acting through their Workers' Councils, organized during the revolution. Kadar at first sanctioned the existence of these Councils and ostensibly accepted their autonomy, apparently in the hope of controlling them and thus returning the workers to their traditionally subservient, voiceless role in the Communist state. Persuasion, negotiation, laws and decrees—for example, the decree of 9 December outlawing the Budapest Workers' Council—failed to break the Workers' Councils' independence of action.

The notorious decree of January 13 finally imparted a veneer of legality to the arrests, imprisonment, and executions which were increasingly publicized. Since it was the workers' resistance that was most damaging to the Kadar government, it seems likely that the workers were the main target of this terror. However, examination of more than 100 reports of legal actions in three major Hungarian regime newspapers* between January and June 1957 suggests that the regime is taking care to avoid the impression that it is focusing on any one group: workers, peasants or intellectuals. Examples of each have been reported. In most instances the occupation or social status of the victim is not mentioned; he is characterized merely as a "resident" of a particular town or county.

Similarly, the regime avoids giving the impression that it is persecuting individuals for participation in the October revolution. Though "counterrevolutionary" participation in the October "events" figures in some accounts of trials, in many instances it is treated as incidental to other, more current offenses. Thus, concealing of arms is perhaps the most common charge. Other frequent charges are murder, looting, robbery, incitement to armed resistance and strikes, and assisting in illegal border crossings.

* Magyar Nemzet (the Party paper), Munkás (the trade union paper), and Magyar Hírlap (an "Independent" paper).

Newspaper coverage ranges from reports on investigations to items on arrests, indictments, details of the trial itself, or sentences. Full coverage is given in relatively few cases, presumably in those which serve most effectively as object lessons to the local population or which represented obvious and demonstrable crimes even in the eyes of the free world. With certain exceptions, the victims are ordinary citizens unknown outside their local community.

The sketchy quality of the information released by the Kadar regime for publication makes it difficult to examine the merits of most cases involved, or even to learn of the ultimate fate of the hundreds if not thousands of victims of the terror. Any accurate tabulation of the number of arrests or sentences is impossible. However, the Hungarian Government Commissioner for Justice, Dr. Ferenc Kereki, stated that in the period of summary jurisdiction between December 12 and February 23, 304 verdicts were handed down. Forty death sentences were noted out, of which 15 were executed. It is reasonable to assume that such official figures are considerably lower than the actual figures. Similar falsification was evident in the Hungarian regime's figures on refugees who fled to the West, on casualties during the revolution, and on deportation to the Soviet Union.

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ATTACHMENT B

Attachment B

Nepakarat, 21 May 1957

"The summary court of the Budapest town court will open the trial of Agoston FREISZMAJER and accomplices on Tuesday. Until November 4, FREISZMAJER had been fighting in Praeter-utca, 9th District. He fired at Soviet tanks and visited Kilian Barracks where for 1-2 days, he acted as a liaison man with Maleter. On January 11, he incited workers at Csepel to demonstrate and the next day to attack the local militia."

Nepakarat, 14 May 1957

"One of the leaders of the counterrevolutionary strike drive in Baranya county, Emil DOBROVICS, 26, a resident of Pecs and a former worker at the Pecs mines, has been sentenced to 14 years imprisonment."

Nepakarat, 29 April 1957

"After a two-week trial, the Mograd county court sentenced former president of the county Workers' Council Ervin SZABO and former president of the Nagybatony National Committee Jozsef BUDA to 3 years imprisonment. A former Workers' Council leader, Andor JECSENIK was sentenced to seven years imprisonment. Other defendants received terms of two to two and one half years."

Radio Budapest, 25 April 1957 as cited in East Europe, June 1957

Janos KIS of Csepel was hanged after his plea for mercy was rejected by the Presidential Council. He had been sentenced on April 9, for "concealing firearms and ammunition."

Nepeskerai, 19 April 1957

"The counterrevolutionaries of Labetian cement works, Jozsef KIRALY and Andras SOGKUTI will appear before summary court. In the November days, these terrorists procured arms and grenades. They assaulted the apartments of six communists, fired into the apartments, and threw hand grenades into the windows. By mere chance, they caused no casualties."

Nepesabadang, 20 April 1957

Latvan MICSHAI, a policeman during the Horthy era, was executed for murdering the old labor movement "stalwart" Kalman TURNER during the counterrevolution.

Radio Budapest, 17 April 1957 as cited in East Europe, June 1957

Three former members of a cable factory Workers' Council were arrested in mid-April. They were members of a group which printed NEM (we start again in March) leaflets and had taken part in the October revolution.

Eati Nirlap, 16 April 1957

The new People's Court tried its first case in prosecuting Istvan MICSHAI, locksmith, for murder.

Nepesabadang, 13 April 1957

The Special Court of the Borsod County Court sentenced Miklos OLAI, 21, a railroad worker, to death for murder. Sentence executed April 12.

Nepeskerai, 10 April 1957

"The Budapest summary military court last Tuesday tried factory worker Janos SCHIFF, 27, with a criminal record, resident of Budapest, for hiding arms and ammunition. The court sentenced SCHIFF to death by hanging. The court recommended reprieve to the Presidential Council."

Nepesabadag, 10 April 1957

Janos GIKME tried to organize a new insurrection in Ormosbanya, by preparing the members of the Ormosbanya Workers' Council to provoke a strike at a propitious moment. He was arrested before the plot was consummated and handed over to the Public Prosecutor for indictment.

Nepesabadag, 12 April 1957

A military summary court sentenced "civilian" Ferenc BALAZS to death. Reprieve was not granted. Death sentence reprieves were granted to Sander BATA, "civilian" and Gyula GARAMI, "civilian"; the sentences were changed to imprisonment.

Nepesabadag, 3 April 1957

"Last Tuesday the Budapest Town Court passed sentence in the trial of Bela MAGY and accomplices. The greater part of them and MAGY were employees of MAV (Hungarian State Railways) at the Szob border station. Abusing their official status they smuggled different goods from Czechoslovakia into Hungary and sold them at a profit. The court declared MAGY and his 12 accomplices guilty of financial and currency crimes and profiteering and sentenced Bela MAGY to 2½, Laszlo KERNEDI to 1½, and Otto CSIKMADIA to one year in prison...."

Nepesabadag, 29 March 1957

At a summary trial by the Budapest garrison military court, Ferenc BALAZS, "an auxiliary worker with a criminal record" was sentenced to death for concealing arms. Gera KOS, a high school teacher and resident of Bekesabad was given ten years for the same offense.

Bati Hirlep, 21 March 1957

Forest worker Istvan SZABO was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for throwing hand grenades at two miners and for hiding explosives and ammunition.

Nepszombat, 21 March 1957

"After a summary trial, the Budapest Town Court has passed sentence on chief mechanic Jozsef JAKAB and electrician Tibor KATHONAI. The accused had hidden two machine pistols, one rifle, two loaded magazines and a great amount of ammunition at their working place. Jozsef JAKAB was sentenced to six, Tibor KATHONAI to five years in prison."

Esti Hirlap, 19 March 1957

"Driver Janos BALAZS, 32, with a criminal record of 11 previous convictions, undertook to smuggle people over the border. He received money, then disappeared. The 14th District Court sentenced him to 2½ years in prison. He has begun to serve his sentence."

Nepszombat, 13 March 1957

Streetcar conductor Gyula GYABLONKA arrested in connection with charges of "mansmuggling."

Esti Hirlap, 13 March 1957

Former newspaper man Gabor POLLY, 38, depot worker Sandor VASVARI, 19, and turner Miklos HORVATH, 21, will be summarily tried before the Budapest Town Court for active and armed participation in the counterrevolution in November. Worker László POZNAN was also indicted for failing to "denounce these activities" to the authorities.

Nepszombat, 10 March 1957

"Engineer Lajos STANKOVICS, formerly a president of the Workers' Council of the town of Nagykoros has been arrested by the Nagykoros military forces and delivered to the police authorities. He was caught in the act of hiding arms. Also arrested was Tibor PAPOLCZY, a former officer of the General Staff of the Horthy army. A great amount of ammunition and explosives was found in his possession."

Nepesabadang, 7 March 1957

Lathe mechanic Lajos SALLAI hid arms and ammunition at the Hemp and Jute Works. SALLAI had taken part in the siege of the radio building. He had been elected by counterrevolutionaries into the Workers' Council. He undertook anti-Party and anti-government activities at the works.

Bank clerk BATIZI came to the works some years ago, worked closely with counterrevolutionaries who promised to send him to parliament. After election to the Workers' Council, he forced the legally elected Workers' Council to resign, and then got himself elected secretary.

Both men have been taken into custody.

Nepesabadang, 3 March 1957

Laboratory worker Ervin ANTAL arrested for organizing the strike of 11-12 December in Csepel Iron and Metal Works.

The Interpreter, March 1957

Ferenc ORSOS, aged 42, and Ferenc RUZSAK, aged 34, both railroad workers were sentenced to prison terms. ORSOS was said to have hidden, since 1944, two revolvers and 12 rounds of ammunition in his apartment, which were discovered on January 21. He was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment and 10 years' loss of civil rights. RUZSAK, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and five years' loss of civil rights, was said to have acquired a military pistol in November and hidden it in his loft.

Kati Hirlep, 26 February 1957

Writer Gabor VARGA and industrial apprentices Istvan PEILAK and Laszlo MISLI were arrested for plotting an uprising on March 15 in BUDAVAR. They had hidden arms for the purpose. They will be tried.

Hungarian Information Service, as cited by The Interpreter,
February 1957

A group who had "attacked worker-peasant rule" was tried before the Budapest garrison's Military Tribunal. The group was headed by a Budapest worker, Jozsef VARGA, and was charged with concealing arms and ammunition. They also were accused of planning to "foment strikes." Three were sentenced to death, three to ten and six to five years' imprisonment, and two were acquitted.

Hepesabadzag, 14 February 1957

"Lazalo LUKOVICS and Miklos OLAH killed major of the armed forces Sander OFRENDOK during the troubles of the beginning of December. They were tried and condemned to death for murder, revolutionary organization and hiding arms by the Miskolc County Court."

Hepesabadzag, 1 February 1957

A trial has been opened against Lazalo IVANDI, 24, an "employee," and Lajos NEMES, his accomplice for hiding arms, counter-revolutionary activities, attempted manslaughter, and production of illegal press materials. These crimes were committed in connection with the "counterrevolutionary assault in Eger December 11-12." IVANDI had seized the Eger Printing Press and printed "inciting" posters. He also assaulted a police captain, but was restrained from doing him severe injury by the "more reasonable elements in a crowd."

Hepesabadzag, 30 January 1957

About December 13, Corporal Gera MEIER, printer Sander KATONA, industrial worker Janos SEUTTER, and smith Andras RUDAS were arrested for concealing arms and ammunition near Pomez. They are former Arrow Cross men and war criminals. They will be tried before a summary court.

Magyarbadaag, 25 January 1957

"The Budapest Public Prosecutor's office has submitted to the Court an indictment against mansmuggler, motorcar driver Gustav REVESEZ, a resident of Budapest. On November 25, 26, and 27 REVESEZ guided about 50-60 people over the border in the vicinity of the village of Fortoboz. He accepted money as payment. In the course of the house searching a sum of 17,700 forints was found. REVESEZ admitted that he had received it from the people he had guided over the border."

Hepakarat, 11 January 1957 as cited by The Interpreter, February 1957

James TERKOVICS, Jr., a fitter aged 31, was tried by summary procedure before the Military Court of Budapest. At the beginning of November, he had obtained a pistol, two rifles, and some ammunition, which were discovered when his house was searched. He was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. His father was sentenced to ten years for hiding a pistol in a chimney.

Radio Budapest, about 6 December as cited in East Europe, January 1957

"Police arrested Genn KONACS, a 22-year old Budapest technician at the screw factory who ... wormed his way into the Workers' Council and acted as Chairman. Investigation has established that Jozsef MESZAROS, another member of the Workers' Council, convinced the Chairman to authorize the issue of counterrevolutionary leaflets.... It has further been established that among the criminal elements there are many who act as members of the Workers' Councils or as representatives of the Workers' Councils. In this way ... they bring into ill-repute honest, well-intentioned workers who support reconstruction."